

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: SOUTH **County:** TULARE

Applicant: TULARE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

Project Title: TULE RIVER SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Reference Number: SNC 070230

PROJECT SCOPE

This site improvement project will decrease river and associated land pollution on 35 acres, along ten miles of the Tule River, near the community of Springville. The litter associated with heavy visitor use is found along the north and middle forks of the Tule River and has resulted in water quality and habitat degradation. This restoration project is a collaborative effort of CSET, the U.S. Forest Service, and the non-profit organization WildPlaces. The project has matching funds and in-kind services from U.S. Forest Service and the applicant, CSET, totaling \$252,959.

The activities in this project include:

- Implementing a permanent recycling collection area;
- Conducting volunteer river clean-up days;
- Sponsoring and participating in public education events;
- Recruiting and training volunteers to conduct outreach to diverse groups of visitors and residences and creating bilingual recruitment tools;
- Completing 6 month progress reports to SNC.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Purchase receptacles for recyclable materials collection	April 2008
Initiate development of all publications	May 2008
Keep America Beautiful – Great American Clean Up	July 2008
Organize and set materials collection schedules	August 2008
Local community event booths at Tulare County Fair and International Agriculture Show	September 2008
Public Lands Day Event	September 2008
Deliver and setup recycling materials collection area	October 2008
Finalize all publications and make available for distribution	October 2008
Complete and submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Ribbon Cutting for new recycling collection site	November 2008
Weekly collection of recyclables	November 2008 – April 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Earth Day Event	April 2009
Educational flyers (5000) to businesses and residents	April 2009 – September 2009
Local community event booths at Tulare County Fair and International Agriculture Show	September 2009
Complete and submit eighteen-month progress report to SNC	October 2009
Weekly collection of recyclables	November 2009 – April 2010
Determine if permanent recycling bins are needed at alternate sites	April 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	April 1, 2010

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Forest Service Coordinator's salary to lead volunteer cleanup days	\$17,000
Coordinator's salary to develop, print and disseminate marketing materials, develop and print educational materials, coordinate large clean up events and recruit volunteers, develop and schedule media	\$40,000
Permanent recycling collection center equipment	\$10,000
Gas Mileage for collection and transport	\$5,959
Weekly pick-up fees for recycling materials	\$19,040
Direct administrative expenses (8%)	\$8000
GRAND TOTAL	\$99,999

Letters of Support:

None submitted

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the requested amount of \$99,999.

2. Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

The Tule River Site Improvement project will improve the health of the Tule River watershed through innovative solutions designed by Community Services & Employment Training (CSET), a local conservation corps, the United States Forest Service (USFS) and WildPlaces. These partners have collaborated to bring to bear their distinct expertise and resources to decrease river and associated land pollution through clean ups, permanent recycling options, graffiti mapping and education. Both WildPlaces and the Tulare County Youth Corps (TCYC) are experienced in providing experiential learning opportunities and job training. Their expertise will benefit this project by teaching corpsmembers to map graffiti along the river using GIS technology, while weaving in gang prevention strategies. Routine clean ups and reliable opportunities for recycling will reduce trash and contamination of the river. Education that targets the specific needs of the river's diverse users will mobilize stakeholders and garner the community support needed to sustain the enhancements achieved by this project. All elements of this project will be easily adaptable and replicable to other forests and agencies resulting in long-term benefits.